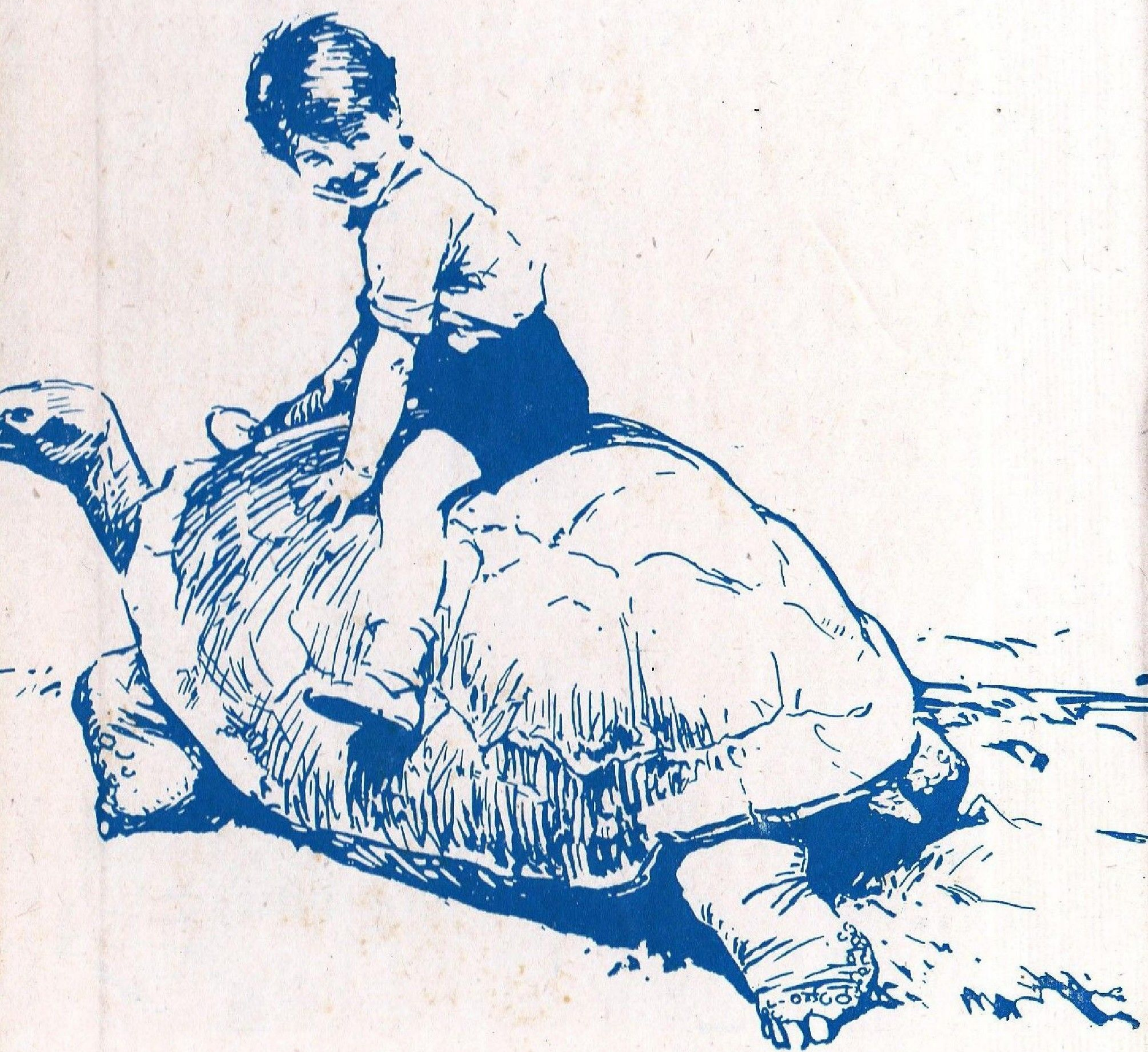


IN THE WILDERNESS

with Uncle Mac



COLOUR ILLUSTRATIONS BY *Sep E Scott*





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IN THE WILDERNESS

By

DEREK McCULLOCH
(Uncle Mac of the B.B.C.)

With illustrations in colour

by

SEP. E. SCOTT



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DEAR CHILDREN,

The object of this book is to tell you just a little, but enough to learn *something* of the wonderful animals and birds in the world. You may have met some of these creatures, while others, which live in foreign countries, you may see one day.

One of the most wonderful things about all these animals and birds is that in some way or another Nature has given them a special form of colour or design, to help them to hide from danger.

Serek Mc Culloch.

(UNCLE MAC).

Brock Badger is a real old-English gentleman. Although he is shy, and likes most to come out at night, he also loves sunshine and basks in it like a cat. Brock is very strong, and with his sharp claws digs his home deep underground. He eats almost anything—grubs, beetles, roots and honey.

If you are lucky you may see old badger with his black and white striped head sitting at his front door. All he asks is to be left in peace.

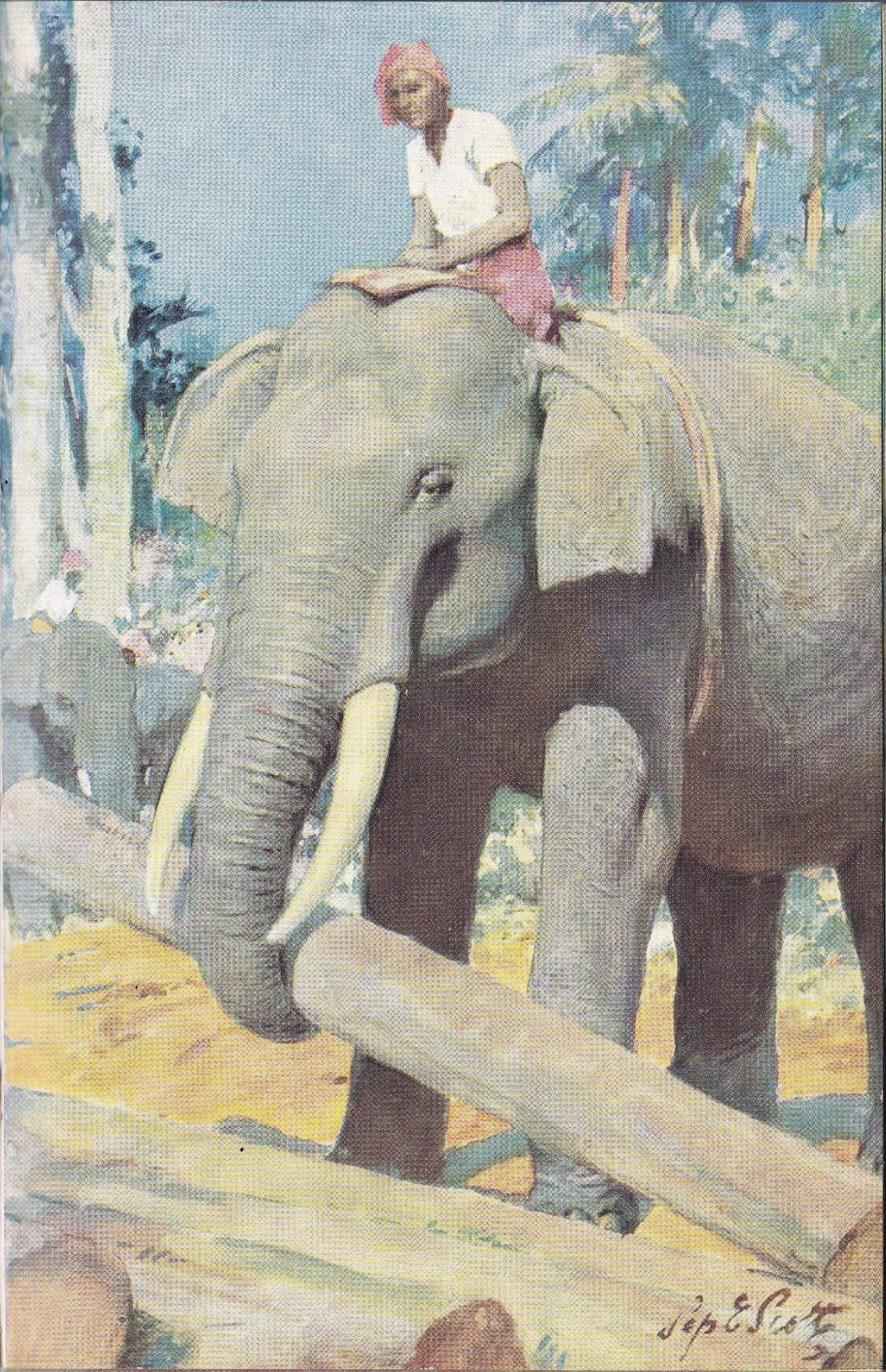
The Badger



The elephant, the biggest animal, lives in India and Africa. When tame he is clever and a hard worker. It is interesting to see a pair of elephants pushing logs with their trunks and feet, and lifting them by their ivory tusks. The elephant uses his trunk to put food into his mouth, but he drinks *through* his trunk.

By filling his trunk with water the elephant uses it like a hose to bathe himself. He has been known to spurt water over people for a joke.

The Elephant



Sep 8 1907

The otter is usually brown in colour, with thick hair, a long body, four large webbed toes and a strong tail. He swims very fast, and turns like lightning in the water, which is his natural home.

The otter lives about lakes and rivers, and is often seen on seashores. Though the otter usually swims at night, you may find a mother teaching her babies to swim in a quiet place on a sunny day. Young otters are called kits.

The Otter



Joe E. Varty

The panda has become a very popular animal with children, both in books and as cuddly toys. Sometimes the Panda is called the Bear Cat, but he is not really a bear. The Great Panda is a funny fellow, black and white in colour, looking rather like a fat clown, with a comical face.

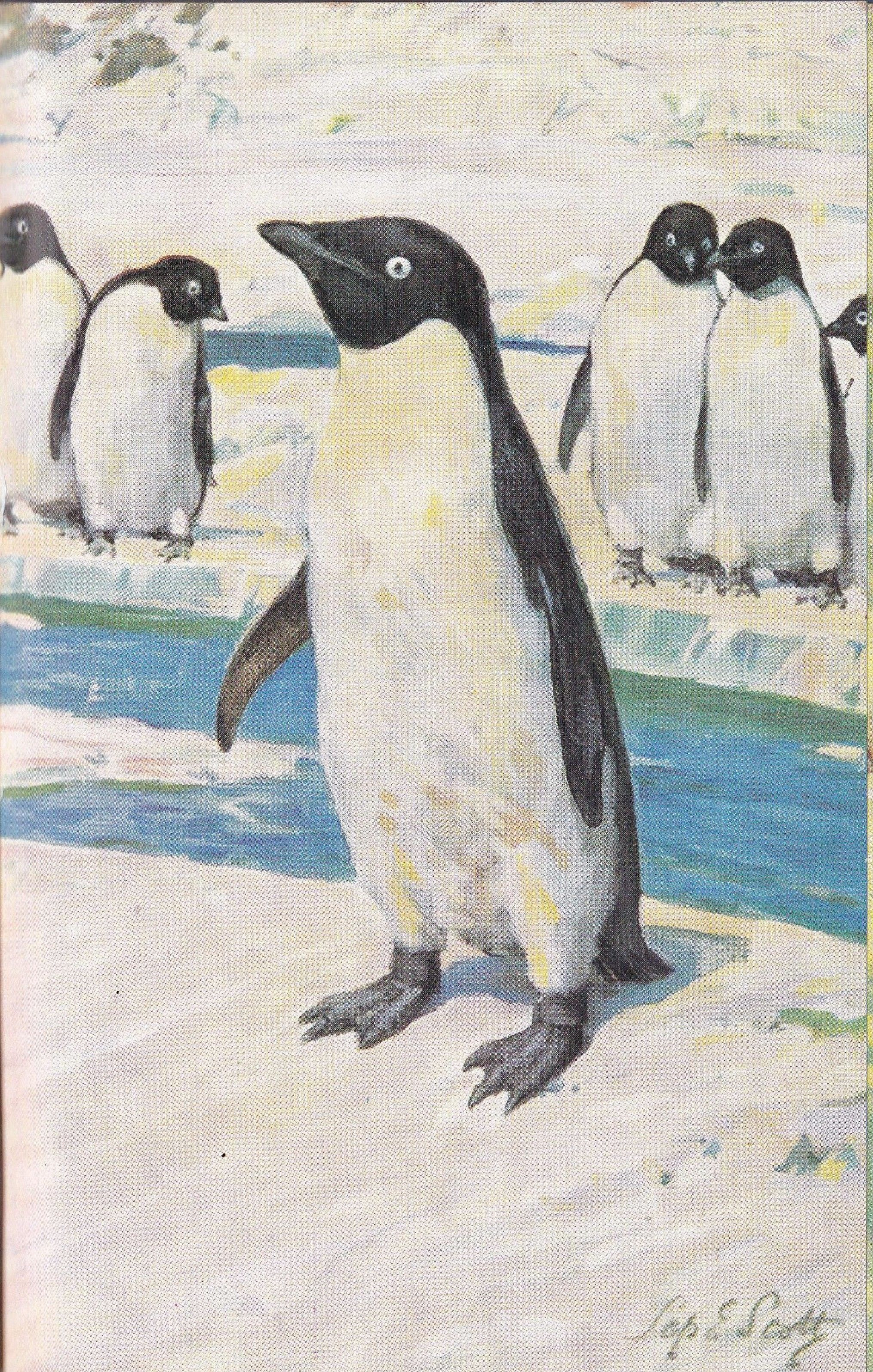
Pandas love condensed milk out of a tin. They stick their noses in, making lovely snuffling noises, and you would think they were never going to let go.

The Great Panda



The penguin really is a wonderful bird. He cannot fly properly, yet he gets along quickly. His wings, or flippers, are rather like rowing paddles, and with these he swims fast and deep. On land he waddles along just like a plump little waiter, dressed in a black coat with a white shirt front. Once upon a time, long, long ago, penguins had wings like other birds, but gradually these have turned into flippers. Penguins look half animal and half bird.

The Penguin



Lep & Scott

The tortoise is indeed a curious animal. He has a thick shell, underneath which he can safely hide his head and legs. There are many kinds of tortoises ; some live on land while some live in water. Tortoises can be very small or very big, but all move slowly over the ground. There is one famous old tortoise thought to be more than 300 years of age. If you have a small tortoise, take care he does not eat the lettuce in the garden !

The Tortoise



Sept 8 1884

The camel is one of the most wonderful animals in the world. For hundreds of years he has been the Arab's friend, because he can travel great distances carrying huge loads upon his back. The camel lives in hot, sandy countries, where there is no sea, so he is often called the ship of the desert.

In the Bible, especially in the Old Testament, the camel is often mentioned, and it was John the Baptist who wore clothes made of camel's hair.

The Camel



The white polar bear lives in the lands of ice and darkness known as the polar regions. Not only can it swim and dive as well as the seal, but it often goes long journeys on drifting ice, travelling hundreds of miles and catching fish on the way.

A favourite game of the polar bear is to lie back in the water, catch hold of its hind toes with its front feet, and then roll over and over like a revolving barrel.

The Polar Bear



By E. S. Smith

The beaver, a clever, interesting creature, is found in Canada. He lives on land and in water, but it is in the water that he is so clever. If it is shallow he works like an engineer, building barriers with reeds to keep in enough water for him to hide beneath. He has sharp claws for digging, but his hind feet are webbed for swimming. His tail is flat and scaly; while as well as long hair he has lovely under-fur.

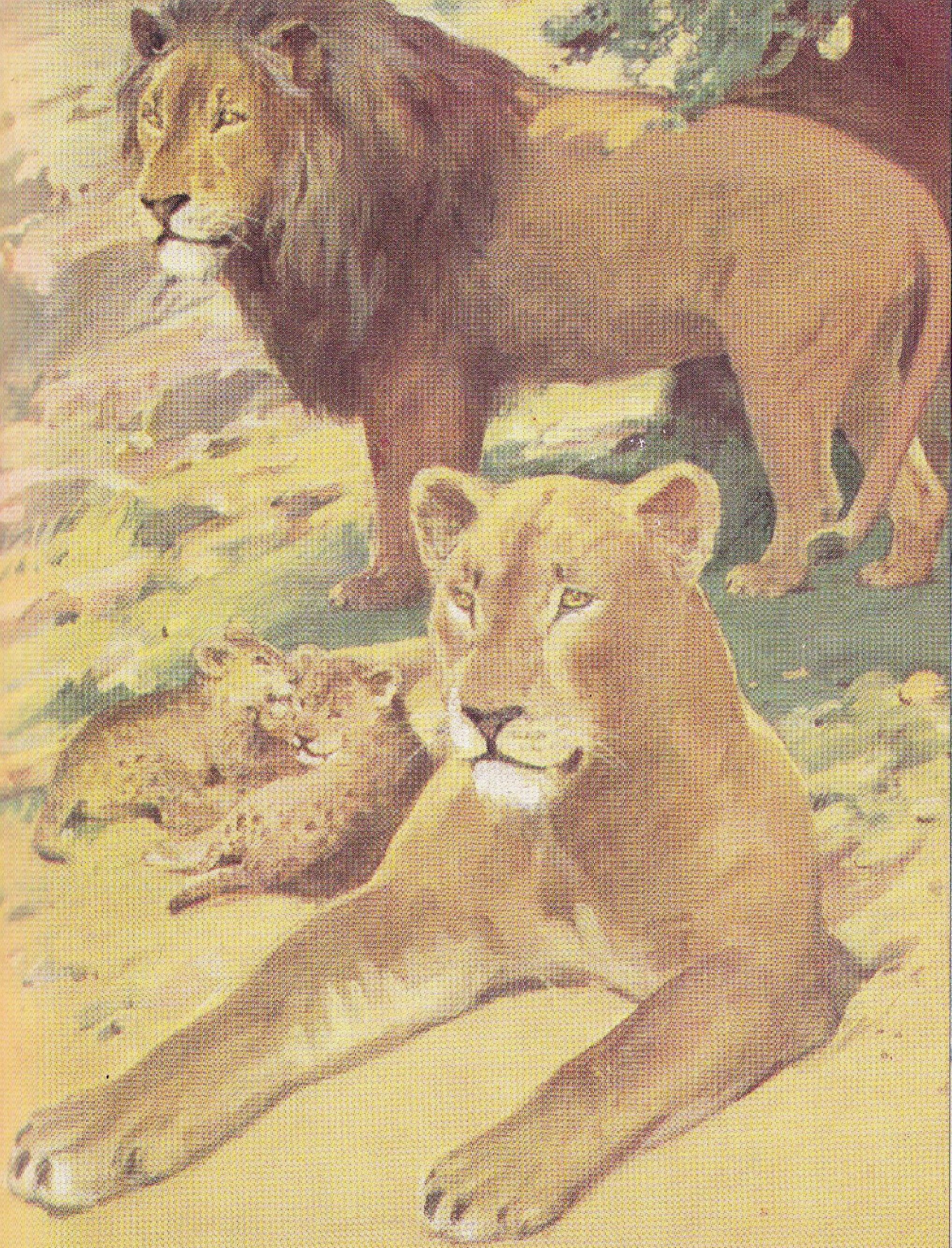
The Beaver



The lion, known as the King of Beasts, belongs to the cat tribe, and is often called Leo. Like elephants, lions come from India and Africa. A mother lion, or lioness, will lie with her family purring loudly like a cat, while the father lion keeps watch nearby. Lions have a thick mane, which makes them look very handsome, but the lioness has a different kind of head.

The cat tribe includes lions, tigers, leopards, pumas, jaguars, and lynxes.

The Lion



Ree & Co.

The Saint Bernard is often known as the “first-aid” dog, because he goes to rescue travellers lost in the mountains called the Alps. The Saint Bernard monks kept many of these wonderful dogs, which led the trail to travellers lost in the snow in Switzerland. These huge dogs are friendly and gentle, but are rather clumsy when they are puppies. When they are fully grown they can easily carry children on their backs. As you can guess, they eat a lot of food.

Saint Bernard Dogs



The jay is a very beautiful bird, and his wonderful colours make it hard for you to see him against trees and bushes. He has a black and white crest, brown and white body, and white tail with black at the end. The wings are black, white and brown, with a lovely black, white and blue marking above. The jay is shy, but mischievous, though he is useful for catching slugs and insects which do harm in gardens and fields.

The Jay



Many people keep monkeys as pets, and a suitable kind is the marmoset, because he is usually small and pretty. The monkey tribe is very large indeed, but only a special few can be kept in our homes. Marmosets are rather delicate creatures, and need a lot of care, but they are lively and full of mischief. Some people prefer the little Capuchin monkey, which has a round, merry face, bright eyes, pretty fur and a curling tail.

Marmoset Monkey



How would you like to have a little Australian Koala or tree bear? He is very like your Teddy Bear, but not so easy to get. He makes friends quickly and is a comical playmate. In Australia he lives in tall gum-trees, and eats the leaves. Mamma Koala carries him on her back up in the tree-tops when he is a baby. The Koala has no tail but is chubby and wears a coat of thick, greyish wool.

The Koala Bear



The seal is a happy-go-lucky creature, a marvellous swimmer but as happy on land as in the water. Both the ordinary seal and the grey seal make their homes about the rocky coasts. Because they swim up rivers they are mistaken for otters. Seals like to live in small groups, and often lie closely together looking out to sea. It is true that seals eat heaps of fish, and so are not popular with fishermen.

The Seal



Rep. E. Scott

The African zebra is very like a donkey, which Nature has painted with stripes. He really is a pretty animal with a white body on which are black stripes most clearly and perfectly marked. He has a brown mouth, or muzzle, and is white underneath the body. This animal can run very fast, and sometimes makes a funny noise which is a sort of grunting and whistling mixed up. The zebra is a shy creature and not easily tamed.

The Zebra



The Eskimos live in countries where snow and ice abounds for most of the year. They use sledges which are pulled along by Eskimo dogs called "Huskies." The dogs work in teams, and are harnessed with reins to sledges on which the Eskimos travel. These dogs have helped explorers to reach both the North and South Poles. Lots of "Huskies" are seen in Alaska, and other cold countries. It is believed that these dogs are direct descendants of wolves.

The Eskimo Dog



Ed. E. Smith

The long-legged stork, hero of many fairy-tales, is a bird greatly loved in Holland, Denmark, Germany and Morocco. The body of the stork is generally pure white, with bill, legs, and wings of bright red. Storks fly hundreds of miles to warmer foreign countries, but always return to their home nesting places.

In Morocco, where there are many storks, the natives love them to build nests on house-tops, and they even have a special hospital for these birds.

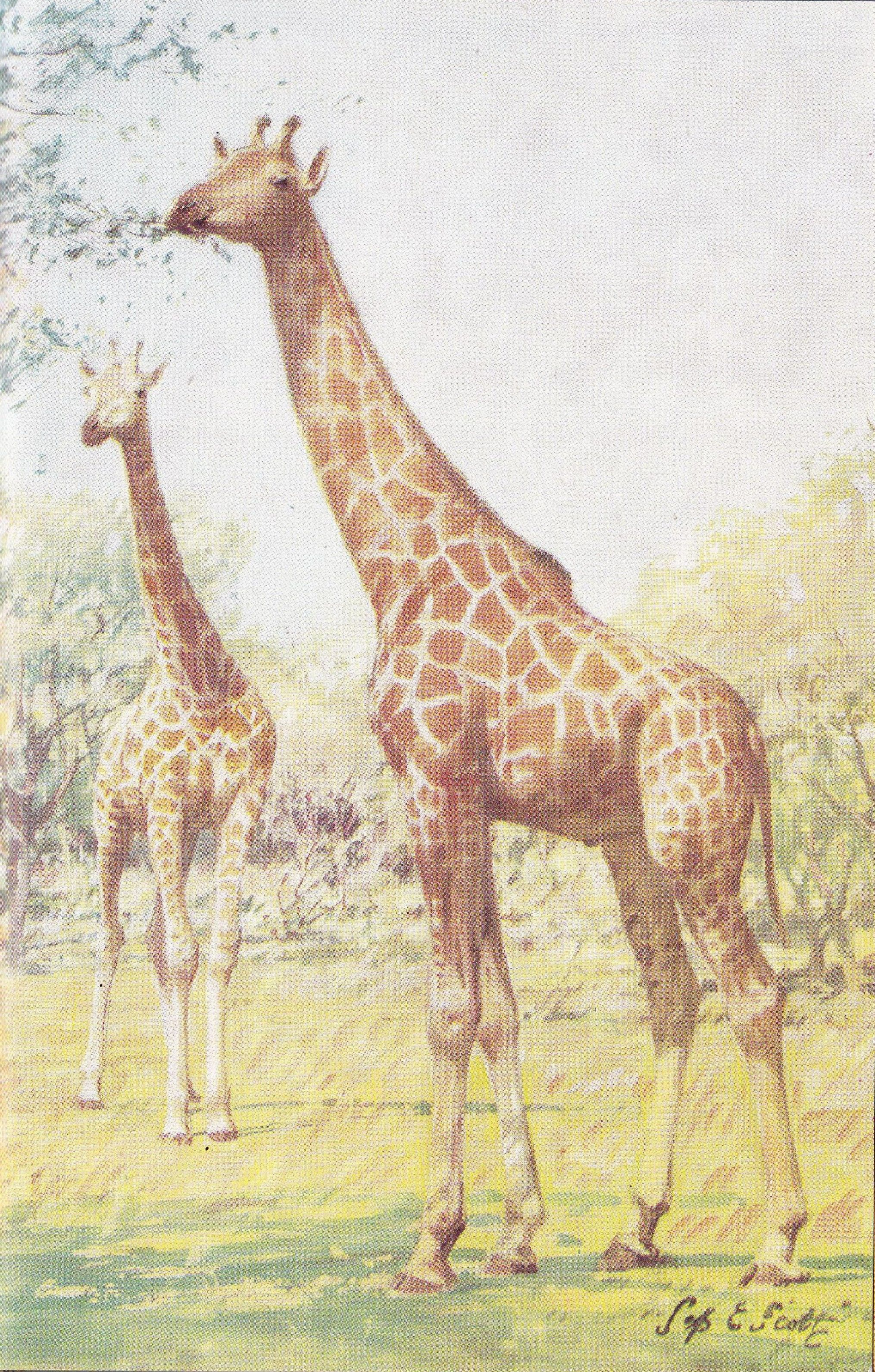
The Stork



J. L. Page

If the elephant is the biggest of all animals, then the giraffe is easily the tallest. Usually yellowish-white, with oddly-shaped darker-coloured patches all over his body, the giraffe is found only in Africa. He is so like the colour of dark trees and bushes that he is difficult to see, especially when lying down. With his long legs the giraffe runs terribly fast. He makes no sound or cry, but has a tongue almost eighteen inches long.

The Giraffe



Sp & Scott

The ostrich has its home in Africa, and is the real giant of all living birds. It is queer that ostriches do not fly but *run* over the ground as fast as a small motor car. The wings are used rather like wind-sails, and help to put on speed. The plumes, or feathers of the ostrich, are very beautiful, while ostrich eggs are very good to eat. These birds have an amusing trick of waltzing round and round until they get quite giddy.

The Ostrich



The reindeer, animals loved in fairy-tales and happy reminders of Santa Claus, live in snowy countries. Reindeer all have beautiful antlers which curve up and out and then inwards. Mother and father reindeer are very much the same to look at. Like Eskimo dogs—reindeer often draw sledges, because they are strong, and travel fast. Once upon a time there were reindeer in Britain, but they do not live here any more.

The Reindeer



The Australian kangaroo looks very much like a giant hare, but he is many sizes larger and can get over the ground at a tremendous pace. Mrs. Kangaroo is smaller than her husband, and she carries her baby about in a wonderful skin pouch in front. Many native women carry their babies tucked into a shawl wound across their backs, but the mother kangaroo has her own carrying pouch provided by Nature. Fast running dogs cannot keep up with kangaroos.

The Australian Kangaroo



By P. R. R.

The swift-running wolf is one of the most interesting animals in the world, if only because a number of other animals come from the same family. This tribe, called the dog, gives us some of our own domestic dogs. A good example is the Alsatian, well-known as a police dog. Wolves are found all over the world, and in North America there are many handsome white ones. Wolf, dingo, jackal and fox all come within the dog tribe of animals.

The Wolf



Paul E. Smith

We must not leave the mole out of this book, for he is a wonderful little creature, and very strong. He is naughty, because he spoils beautiful lawns by throwing up little hillocks of earth from underneath. Spending nearly all his life under the earth, the mole is always digging long passages. His "tools" (his front legs!) are so strong that a man can scarcely hold him. The mole digs so fast that even if you see him you will never catch him.

The Mole



Sept 1891

The lizard tribe is so huge that it is hard to say how many kinds there are. The common lizard is a harmless, shy little creature, who is fond of rocks warmed by the sun, and places where there are plenty of cracks and holes for hiding. These lizards are mostly brown and orange in colour, but the baby ones are nearly black and only about an inch long when hatched. Sometimes the lizard loses a bit of his tail, but quickly grows it again.

The Lizard



W. E. P. 100

This bird is named Bird of Paradise because someone named Linnaeus thought Paradise itself must have people in it of the same loveliness. The head is crowned with gold, crossed with dark green and emerald down the throat. It has a blue beak, pink feet and legs. The body, longer than a ruler, is a lovely brown, violet and purple. It has beautiful plumes of orange and brown, and the tail is very long indeed. Truly a wonderful bird.

The Bird of Paradise



Tigers really belong to Asia. They are very cat-like when they walk and some, the Royal Bengal Tigers are among them, are very fierce animals. They are beautiful creatures with, as you can see, clearly striped markings.

The Tigress lying in the jungle grass, with her baby cubs, looks as big as the father Tiger who seems to be standing guard over his family.

It is a pity that Tigers are fierce, but that is the way nature has made them.

The Tiger







